

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

that, despising the pomp of the world and all its favour, casting away all money and superfluities, you follow Christ crucified and your father, Blessed Francis, in nakedness and humility."

Fra Lazzarino seemed changed into another man. He gave away all he had, even his books, excepting a commentary on the Gospels which he needed for his sermons, " and became really a true poor man of Christ." He became a zealous champion of Catherine's cause, and endured much persecution in consequence, especially from his own brethren, but triumphed over all and devoted himself to the conversion of souls. One of his fellow Franciscans tells us that he fled the society of the other friars to live in lonely hermitages, from which he would emerge at times to preach to the people, and that on these occasions his words were like flaming arrows to pierce the hearts of all who heard.<sup>1</sup>

Although Bartolommeo says that he became *volde domesticus* with himself, Lazzarino—perhaps because of his membership of the rival order—does not seem ever to have been closely associated with Catherine's spiritual family. We have, however, a dictated letter from Catherine to him, undated, but probably of a somewhat later epoch, a letter in which the Dominican tertiary, too, claims the seraphic Father of Assisi as hers :—

<sup>cc</sup> Jesus hangs upon the Cross," she writes, " as our rule and our way, and as a written book in which all the unlearned and blind can read. The first verse of the book is hate and love; that is, love of the honour of the Father, and hatred of sin. Then, most beloved and dearest brother, and father by our reverence for the Sacrament, let us follow this sweet book, that so sweetly shows us the way. And if it befall that our three foes should assail us in the way, to wit, the world, the flesh, and the devil, let us take the weapons of hate, as did our father, St. Francis. In order that the world should not puff him up, he chose holy, true, and utter poverty. And so would I have us do. And if the demon of the flesh should rebel against the spirit, let us be angry with ourselves, and afflict and chastise our

<sup>1</sup> *Contestatio* aV., coll. 1347-1351 ; *Contestatio Fr. Angeli de Sa/vettis* (O.F.M.), *loc. ctt.f* col. 1367.